Clarke to use parent power in classroom revolution
Daily Express
Opinion
Spelling it out
Pupils will lose marks for bad exam spelling
EDUCATION SECRETARY GETS TOUGH OVER FALLING SCHOOL STANDARDS
Bad spelling to cost pupils exam marks
5pc of marks to be cut for poor spelling
Clarke spells it out
SPELL!

- 5 DIFFERENT TESTS
- OVER 5,000 WORDS
- FOR AGES 5 TO 15

DATABASE PUBLICATIONS

Graphics and sound – the two key features in most computer games – are deliberately played down in **SPELL!** For the real stars of this package are the words themselves – the 5,000 we have included, and those you key in yourself. The words are split into the categories that cause most problems to young spellers. And each word has been expertly graded for age, so the tests only use words considered appropriate for the age of the user. All the words can be used in any of five different programs. This variety ensures that boredom doesn't set in as a group of words is being practised. *The programs are:*

IN A FLASH: Watch the word flash on the screen then type it in. For beginners there's an option that allows you to leave the word displayed as it is entered.
ROCKET: A variation of the popular Hangman game. Spell the word correctly and the rocket will take off.
LUNAR BUGGY: A word is being pulled across the screen by a buggy. Type it in before it falls over the edge of the cliff.
ALL MIXED UP: Rearrange the letters into the correct order.
CONVEYOR BELT: Watch and remember as the words pass by. Then see how many you can remember – and spell correctly. A test of memory as well as spelling.

GETTING STARTED WITH SPELL!

Using **SPELL!** couldn't be easier. Just follow the instructions on the disc or tape label and you'll be presented with a list of the five programs. Choose the one you want.

You'll next be asked which word list you want. Choose from the ones shown or select 'your own'. If you select the last one you'll be asked for the name of the list. *(See below)*

Then you'll be asked for the child's name and age. When you've done all this, press the spacebar – and let the fun start!

If, instead of pressing the spacebar, you hold down the Control key while pressing certain other keys you will have access to some hidden features. The features and the keys to use are listed inside this package.

THE WORDS USED IN SPELL!

The 5,000 words that come with SPELL! are in several word lists. The areas they cover and the ages each is most suited to are:

Area covered	Age range
Vowel sounds	Any age
Consonant blending	Over 6
Prefixes and suffixes	Over 7
Word families	Over 9
Irregular spelling	Over 11

Some categories are covered by more than one set of words. Simply select it from the list that is displayed when you first enter the program.

The final option on the list lets you use your own words. The flexibility of the programs means that almost any text file can be used as a word list. Any of these are suitable:

- *A list of words that a child has been given to learn. Just type them into a word processor. It doesn't matter if you put them all on one line or in a list down the page. Save them and they're ready to use in* ***SPELL!***
- *Any text such as the child's favourite story. Again just type it into a word processor, save it and use the file in* ***SPELL!***
- *You can use almost any text file that is supplied with any other program.*

Note that it is not necessary to mark each word with a suitable age – a simple list of words is all that is required. However, if you want to put recommended ages in your list just follow each word with a space and the appropriate number. If no ages are in a list the program will select words at random.

For details of how to use the hidden features of SPELL! plus helpful notes for parents and teachers, see inside this package.

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